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ARMY MEDICAL LIBRARY

NEWS

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ISSUED FROM THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

MAJOR ROGERS TO TAKE COURSE AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

Major Frank B. Rogers, Medical Corps, who was appointed Special Assistant to the Director, Army Medical Library, has completed a six months tour of duty at the Library and will begin an academic year at the School of Library Service, Columbia University, on 20 September 1948.

NEWS FROM JAPAN

Several reports have been received from Mr. Joseph A. Groesbeck, Chief of the Acquisition Division, relating to the condition of Japanese medical libraries and publishing. There are about 130 Japanese medical journals currently published. Of particular interest to medical librarians in this country will be a union list of medical journals published by the Japanese Medical Library Association in 1942.

At a meeting of the Japanese Medical Library Association held in Tokyo on 10 August, Mr. Groesbeck suggested cultivation of international exchange between the fourteen library members of that Association and American medical libraries.

Mr. Groesbeck has made arrangements with the libraries of the medical faculties of the former Imperial Universities for the exchange of duplicates, has appointed a Japanese bookseller as agent for the Army Medical Library, and has discussed with officials of SCAP ways and means for the shipment and distribution of duplicate journals to medical libraries in Japan.

GIFTS AND BEQUESTS

Public Law 439, 80th Congress [Chapter 107—2d Session], authorizes the Secretary of the Army to accept and use gifts and bequests for institutions under the jurisdiction of his Department. This will enable the Secretary of the Army to accept a gift or bequest for the benefit of the Army Medical Library, subject to the terms of the gift or bequest.

STERNBERG EXHIBIT

George Miller Sternberg (1838-1915), the pioneer bacteriologist of this country, is the subject of a sixth exhibit in the series Famous Men of Army Medicine.

Sternberg served through the Civil War with courage and ability and is said to have seen more active service on the battlefield than any other medical officer of his time. Following the war he acquired an unusual experience in dealing with epidemics of cholera and yellow fever, his interest in these infections leading him to take up the study of bacteriology, in which he was originally self-taught.

Through his books on the value of commercial disinfectants, on bacteriology, malarial fever, immunity and serum therapy, he was the earliest to teach American physicians the fundamental principles and technic of bacteriology, including the culture methods and photomicrography. In 1880 he discovered the micro-organism of pneumonia, before Pasteur announced his findings. He was the first in this country to show the organisms of malarial fever, cholera, and tuberculosis.

As Surgeon General of the Army (1893-1902), Sternberg created the Army Medical School and the Army Nurse Corps and Dental Corps. He was highly honored in his lifetime, a president of the American Medical Association and of many other important scientific societies.

BINDING STUDIO MOVED

The Binding Studio of the History of Medicine Division, in Cleveland, which from 15 September 1943 to 30 July 1948 was housed in quarters rented from the National Library Bindery Company, has been moved into the Allen Memorial Library building. It is now located with the History of Medicine Division on the third floor of that building. The new arrangement has already proved itself convenient for both the staff of the Binding Studio and the other members of the History of Medicine Division. One of the first visitors to the Binding Studio in its new location was Marie-Louise Viborel, librarian of the Ministère de la Santé Publique in Paris, who expressed much enthusiasm for the work being done by Mr. Eschmann and his staff.

Mlle. Viborel spent 19 and 20 August at the Army Medical Library in Washington. She is on an inspection tour, observing the methods of American medical libraries.

HONORARY CONSULTANTS

The British Ambassador to the United States, Sir Oliver Franks, presented decorations at the British Embassy in Washington, on 23 July 1948, to Dr. John F. Fulton and Brigadier General Edgar Erskine Hume. Dr. Fulton received the Honorary Officer of the Civil Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire; General Hume the Honorary Commander of the Military Division of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire and the Insignia of an Associate Officer (Brother) of the Grand Priory of the British Realm of the Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem.

General Hume attended the meeting of the International Congress of Military Medicine and Pharmacy held at Stockholm, Sweden, beginning 18 August, as the representative of the Surgeon General of the Army. He has been a member and official United States representative at these Congresses for the past twenty-five years.

An article by Miss Mary Louise Marshall, entitled "Dr. Holmes and American Medical Literature" is published in the May-June 1948 issue of the Bulletin of the History of Medicine.

PROCEEDINGS OF HONORARY CONSULTANTS FOURTH ANNUAL MEETING

The Bulletin of the Medical Library Association for July 1948 carries the condensed transactions of the fourth Annual Meeting of the Honorary Consultants to the Army Medical Library.

BRITISH REPORTS

The Document Section has collected a nearly complete file of the Flying Personnel Research Committee Reports of Great Britain. This was made possible through the cooperation of the Office of the Air Surgeon, the Medical Intelligence Division of the Surgeon General's Office, the Naval Medical Research Institute, the British Commonwealth Scientific Office, and the National Research Council. These reports were classified as confidential and secret during the war but have recently, for the most part, been downgraded to open.

LIST OF JOURNALS

The Reference Division has prepared a list of State and County Medical and Dental Society Journals currently received at the Army Medical Library. This list is available for distribution on request.

ACQUISITION NOTES

The fourth of the Semiannual Reports of the Atomic Energy Commission, 1948, contains a comprehensive account of experimental work done throughout the country on the application of radioisotopes and a "Bibliography of Isotope Utilization." The latter lists the official MDDC (Manhattan District) and AECD reports published and ready for distribution. The Library has acquired 11 of the reports germane to its field and has 42 others on order.

Among other notable acquisitions are a lot of 137 medical works in the Chinese and Japanese languages, acquired from a Shanghai dealer, and a group of over 200 modern Greek works purchased in Athens.

Figures recently compiled on serial acquisitions show a total of over 85,000 original pieces processed for the fiscal year just closed. This represents an increase of 46% over the total for the fiscal year 1947.

MERITORIOUS CIVILIAN AWARD

Miss Christine C. Hilbrandt, of the Index-Catalogue Division, received the Commendation for Meritorious Civilian Service from the Department of the Army for exceptionally faithful and efficient service. The citation was read and the award presented to Miss Hilbrandt by the Director, Army Medical Library, on Tuesday morning, 24 August 1948.

VISITORS

E. H. Ackerknecht, M. D., Professor, History of Medicine, University of Wisconsin.

M. A. Jackson, M. D., Sydney, Australia.

Dr. Phung Pintuyothin, Bangkok, Siam

Dominga Rodriguez Rodriguez, R. N., Puerto Rico.

Andies A. Santas, M. D., Buenos Aires, Argentina.

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